

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01328 311914Z

44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SY-04 EUR-25 NIC-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /141 W

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P R 311430Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0075

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 1328

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GY, PINT

SUBJECT: POLICE ARREST OPPOSITION LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN

REF: GEORGETOWN 1270

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIEDM

1. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF INFORMATION PRESS RELEASE, POLICE ON JULY 30 ARRESTED LEADER OF OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) CHEDDI JAGAN ON CHARGES OF UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION AND COMPONENT PARTS OF PISTOL. ARREST FOLLOWED EXTENSIVE SEARCH OF JAGAN'S HOME AND FREEDOM HOUSE, PPP HEADQUARTERS. REPORTEDLY ONE PISTOL MAGAZINE, 10 ROUNDS OF .32 CALIBER AND 3 ROUNDS OF .22 CALIBER AMMUNITION WERE FOUND. JAGAN WAS RELEASED ON BOND AND INSTRUCTED TO APPEAR IN GEORGETOWN MAGISTRATES COURT ON JULY 31. IN COMMENT IN PPP PAPER MIRROR, JANET JAGAN, PPP INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY, SAID THIS WAS FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS POLICE HAVE SEARCHED JAGAN HOME AND FIRST TIME IN 10 YEARS POLICE HAVE SEARCHED FREEDOM HOUSE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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PAGE 02 GEORGE 01328 311914Z

2. COMMENT: ARREST OF JAGAN CONFIRMS HIS SUSPICION THAT IN

AFTERMATH OF TOLL GATE ATTACK (REFTEL), GOVT WOULD TIGHTEN CONTROL OVER PPP ACTIVITIES. GOVT HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO MAKE CLEAR SHOW OF FORCE IN RESPONSE TO ATTACK IN HOPES OF DETERRING FURTHER OPPOSITION VIOLENCE. TO KEEP THIS STRATEGY FROM BACKFIRING, GOVT MUST AVOID MAKING JAGAN INTO MARTYR, THEREBY STIRRING UP EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY WHICH STILL VIEWS HIM IN RACIAL TERMS AS THEIR LEADER. MATTHESS

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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